

# City of Gulfport News Release

Police Department PIO

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*Chief Alan Weatherford today announced that:*

Case #: 10-043073

On January 10, 2011, 29 year old Luis Almanza and 25 year old Mariana Farias, both of Dallas Texas were taken into custody in Dallas by the United States Marshall's Fugitive Task Force for outstanding warrants for capital murder and accessory after the fact. Both Almanza and Farias remain in the custody of the Dallas County Sheriff's Office awaiting extradition to Gulfport.

The murder occurred at approximately 6:30 p.m. on December 06, 2010, in the 2400 block of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. Officers responded to the reports of shots fired and moments later 32 year old Michael Banks of Gulfport, entered Auto Zone, located at 2223 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, with a gunshot wound to the chest. Banks was transported to Memorial Hospital at Gulfport where he succumbed to his injuries.

The following month long investigation revealed that the murder occurred during the commission of an armed robbery and that Farias's actions assisted Almanza's evading capture.

On December 21, 2010, Justice Court Judge Gene Dedeaux issued a warrant for Farias's arrest for accessory after the fact with a bond of \$200,000.00. Then investigators from the Gulfport Police Department contacted the United States Marshall's Fugitive Task Force and with their assistance were able to locate Farias and identify Almanza.

On January 10, 2011, Justice Court Judge Melvin Ray issued a warrant for Almanza's arrest for capital murder with a no bond. On the same day the United States Marshall Service took both Almanza and Farias into custody in Dallas Texas and they are currently housed at the Dallas County Sheriff's Office Correctional Center awaiting extradition.



Luis Almanza



Mariana Farias